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jc610 U.S. PTO

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Attorney's Docket No. 99-1107  
Client's Docket No. BLT677

PA

**PATENT Utility APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

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09/522499

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the utility patent application of:

INVENTOR: VERNICE J HARPER

FOR: FEMININE HYGIENE ARTICLE

**Enclosed are:**

Postcard for receipt stamp and return.  
 Applicant's Check for **\$345.00**, covering fees calculated below.  
 Specification with Claims, Abstract, & Declaration & Power of Attorney  
 A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37C.F.R § 1.9 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.  
 2 sheets of drawing.  
 Cover Sheet & Assignment to: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Information Disclosure Statement.

**The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:**

FOR:	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	SMALL ENTITY
BASIC FEE	No. Filed	No. Extra	RATE FEE
			\$345 \$345
TOTAL CLAIMS	8	-20= 0	x09 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	2	- 3= 0	x39 0
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED			+125
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$345</b>

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which are not otherwise submitted and which may be required under 37 CFR 1.17 during the entire pendency of this application, to the Deposit Account # **11-0020**.

March 10, 2000

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Date

Attorney's Docket No. 99-1107  
Client's Docket No. BLT677

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

In re Application of:  
VERNICE J HARPER

Filed: **UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION**

For: **FEMININE HYGIENE ARTICLE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date of Deposit: March 10, 2000

I hereby certify that the attached U.S. Patent Application, informal drawings, transmittal letter, priority document, and/or Preliminary Amendment are being deposited with the United States Postal Service under Express Mail service #**EL 493061558 US** on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Randi Vander Wilt  
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March 10, 2000  
Date

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 99-1107  
Client's Docket No. BLT677

Applicant or Patentee: **VERNICE J. HARPER**  
Serial or Patent Number:  
Filed or Issued:  
For: **FEMININE HYGIENE ARTICLE**

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled as above and described in:

[X] the specification filed herewith.  
[ ] application serial number \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.  
[ ] patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_.  
  

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I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

[X] no such person, concern, or organization  
 [ ] persons, concerns or organizations listed below\*

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME: NOT APPLICABLE [ ] INDIVIDUAL  
ADDRESS: NOT APPLICABLE [ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN  
[ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR: VERNICE J. HARPER



Inventor's Signature

Date

Feb. 29, 2000

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 99-1107  
Client's Docket No. BLT677

**APPLICATION**

**FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

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**SPECIFICATION**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **VERNICE J. HARPER**, a citizen of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful **FEMININE HYGIENE ARTICLE** of which the following is a specification:

## FEMININE HYGIENE ARTICLE

5

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

10       The present invention relates to feminine hygiene articles and more particularly pertains to a new feminine hygiene article for directing menstrual flow into a panel.

#### 15      Description of the Prior Art

          The use of feminine hygiene articles is known in the prior art. More specifically, feminine hygiene articles heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

25       Known prior art includes U.S. Patent No. 2,092,346; U.S. Patent No. 5,383,868; U.S. Patent No. 3,905,372; U.S. Patent No. 5,290,262; U.S. Patent No. 3,420,234; and U.S. Des. Patent No. 266,873.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not disclose a new feminine hygiene article. The inventive device includes a base panel for absorbing moisture. The base panel has a top surface and a bottom surface. An upstanding member directs flow of the moisture. The upstanding member has a top side, a bottom side and a peripheral wall extending therebetween. The bottom side is fixedly coupled to the top surface of the base panel. A sealing member has a front side and a back side. The front side is fixedly coupled to the bottom surface of the base panel.

In these respects, the feminine hygiene article according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of directing menstrual flow into a panel.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of feminine hygiene articles now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new feminine hygiene article construction wherein the same can be utilized for directing menstrual flow into a panel.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new feminine hygiene article apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the feminine hygiene articles mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new feminine hygiene article which is not anticipated, rendered obvious,

suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art feminine hygiene articles, either alone or in any combination thereof.

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a  
5 base panel for absorbing moisture. The base panel has a top  
surface and a bottom surface. An upstanding member directs flow  
of the moisture. The upstanding member has a top side, a bottom  
side and a peripheral wall extending therebetween. The bottom side  
is fixedly coupled to the top surface of the base panel. A sealing  
10 member has a front side and a back side. The front side is fixedly  
coupled to the bottom surface of the base panel.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more  
important features of the invention in order that the detailed  
15 description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in  
order that the present contribution to the art may be better  
appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that  
will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter  
of the claims appended hereto.

20 In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of  
the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is  
not limited in its application to the details of construction and to  
the arrangements of the components set forth in the following  
25 description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable  
of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in  
various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and  
terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and  
should not be regarded as limiting.

30 As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the  
conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be

utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new feminine hygiene article apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the feminine hygiene articles mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new feminine hygiene article which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art feminine hygiene articles, either alone or in any combination thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new feminine hygiene article which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new feminine hygiene article which is of a durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new feminine hygiene article which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the  
5 consuming public, thereby making such feminine hygiene article economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new feminine hygiene article which provides in the apparatuses  
10 and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a  
15 new feminine hygiene article for directing menstrual flow into a panel.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new feminine hygiene article which includes a base panel for  
20 absorbing moisture. The base panel has a top surface and a bottom surface. An upstanding member directs flow of the moisture. The upstanding member has a top side, a bottom side and a peripheral wall extending therebetween. The bottom side is fixedly coupled to the top surface of the base panel. A sealing member has a front  
25 side and a back side. The front side is fixedly coupled to the bottom surface of the base panel.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new feminine hygiene article that is less intrusive than standard  
30 feminine hygiene products.

Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new feminine hygiene article that pulls the moisture of menstrual flow away from the body and into a panel.

5 These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained  
10 by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

20 Figure 1 is a schematic side view of a new feminine hygiene article according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic perspective view of the present  
25 invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic cross-sectional end view of the present invention.

30 Figure 4 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 4 thereof, a new feminine hygiene article 5 embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 4, the feminine hygiene article 10 generally comprises a base panel 10 for 10 absorbing moisture. The base panel 11 has a top surface 12 and a bottom surface 14. The base panel 11 has a peripheral edge 16. A lip 18 is coupled to and extends upwardly away from the peripheral edge 16. The base panel 11 is preferably comprised of a cotton material. The base panel 11 has a generally rectangular shape, and 15 ideally a height between one-half inches and three-fourth inches. The base panel 11 has a length between five and eight inches.

An upstanding member 20 directs flow of moisture. The upstanding member 20 has a top side 22, a bottom side 24 and a 20 peripheral wall 26 extending therebetween. The bottom side 24 is fixedly coupled to the top surface 12 of the base panel 11. The upstanding member 20 is located in a central portion of the base panel 11. The bottom side 24 has a longitudinal axis orientated generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the base panel 11. The 25 top side 22 preferably has a convex shape. A length of the base side 24 has a length preferably twice as long as a width of the top side 22. The peripheral wall 26 has a height approximately between one and two inches

30 A sealing member 28 has a front side 30 and a back side 32. The front side 30 is fixedly coupled to the bottom surface 14 of the

base panel 11. The sealing member 28 has a size and shape is substantially identical to the bottom surface 14 of the base panel 11. The sealing member 28 ideally comprises a flexible plastic. The sealing member 28 is liquid impermeable.

5

An adhesive member 34 removably attaches the sealing member 28 to the undergarments of the user. The adhesive member 34 is fixedly coupled to the back side 32 of the sealing member 28. The adhesive member 34 has an adhesive side 36 directed away 10 from the sealing member 28. The adhesive member 34 covers a substantial portion of a surface of the back side of the sealing member 28.

In use, the adhesive member 34 is removably coupled to the 15 inside portion of a woman's underwear. The upstanding member 20 is then placed in the vagina. Menstrual flow will be directed through the upstanding member 20 and to the base panel 11. The sealing member 28 prevents the menstrual flow from reaching the underwear of the user.

20

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

25

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed 30 readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and

described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of  
5 the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the  
10 scope of the invention.

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A feminine hygiene article, said article being placeable between the body and the undergarments of a user, said article comprising:

a base panel for absorbing moisture, said base panel having a top surface and a bottom surface;

an upstanding member for directing flow of the moisture, said upstanding member having a top side, a bottom side and a peripheral wall extending therebetween, said bottom side being fixedly coupled to said top surface of said base panel;

a sealing member, said sealing having a front side and a back side, said front side being fixedly coupled to said bottom surface of said base panel.

2. The feminine hygiene article as in claim 1, wherein said base panel further comprises:

said base panel having a peripheral edge, a lip being coupled to and extending upwardly away from said peripheral edge, said base panel being comprised of a cotton material.

3. The feminine hygiene article as in claim 2, wherein said base panel further comprises:

said base panel having a generally rectangular shape, said base panel having a height generally between one-half inches and three-fourth inches.

4. The feminine hygiene article as in claim 2, wherein said upstanding member further comprises:

said upstanding member being located in a central portion of said base panel, said bottom side having a longitudinal axis orientated generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said base panel, said top side having a generally convex shape, a length of said base side having a length being approximately twice as long as a width of said top side.

5. The feminine hygiene article as in claim 4, wherein said upstanding member further comprises:

said peripheral wall having a height approximately between one and two inches.

6. The feminine hygiene article as in claim 5, wherein said sealing member further comprises:

said sealing member having a size and shape being substantially identical to said bottom surface of said base panel, said sealing member comprising a plastic, said sealing member being liquid impermeable.

7. The feminine hygiene article as in claim 4, further comprising:

an adhesive member for removably attaching said sealing member to the undergarments of the user, said adhesive member being fixedly coupled to said back side of said sealing member, said adhesive member having an adhesive side being directed away from said sealing member.

8. A feminine hygiene article, said article being placeable between the body and the undergarments of a user, said article comprising:

a base panel for absorbing moisture, said base panel having a top surface and a bottom surface, said base panel having a peripheral edge, a lip being coupled to and extending upwardly away from said peripheral edge, said base panel being comprised of a cotton material, said base panel having a generally rectangular shape, said base panel having a height generally between one-half inches and three-fourth inches;

an upstanding member for directing flow of the moisture, said upstanding member having a top side, a bottom side and

a peripheral wall extending therebetween, said bottom side being fixedly coupled to said top surface of said base panel, said upstanding member being located in a central portion of said base panel, said bottom side having a longitudinal axis orientated generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said base panel, said top side having a generally convex shape, a length of said base side having a length being approximately twice as long as a width of said top side, said peripheral wall having a height substantially equal to one and one-half inches; and

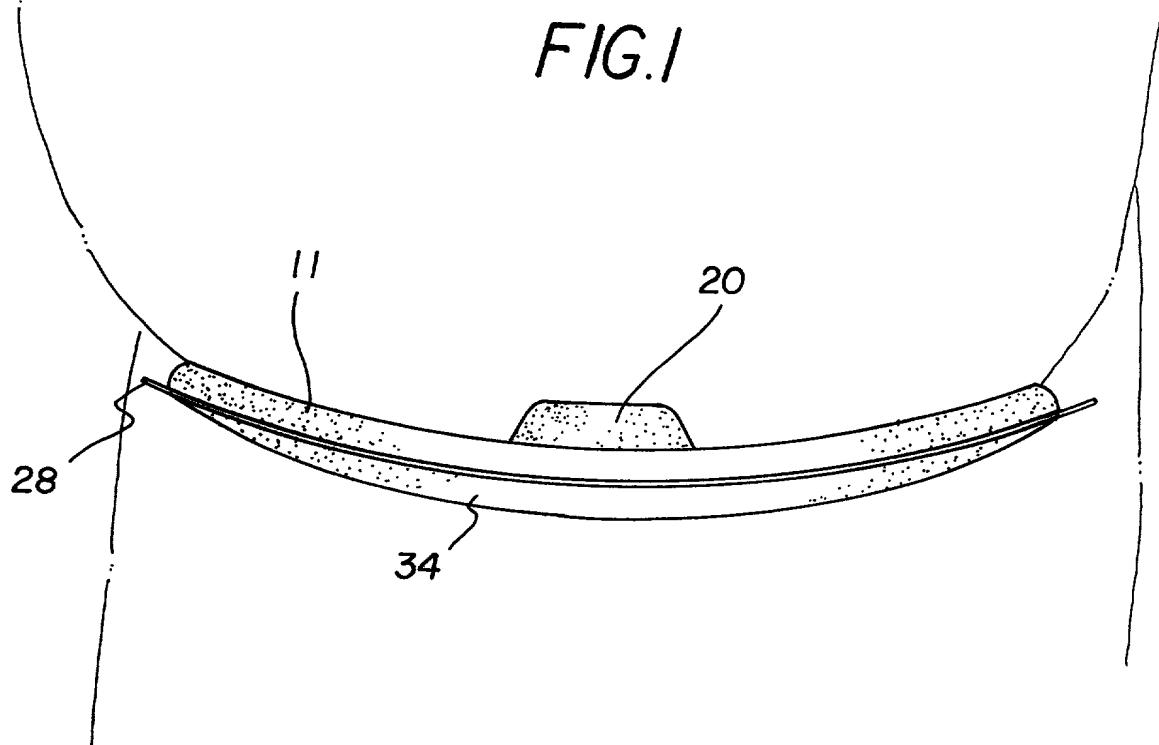
a sealing member, said sealing having a front side and a back side, said front side being fixedly coupled to said bottom surface of said base panel, said sealing member having a size and shape being substantially identical to said bottom surface of said base panel, said sealing member comprising a plastic, said sealing member being liquid impermeable; and

an adhesive member for removably attaching said sealing member to the undergarments of the user, said adhesive member being fixedly coupled to said back side of said sealing member, said adhesive member having an adhesive side being directed away from said sealing member, said adhesive member covering a substantial portion of a surface of said back side of said sealing member.

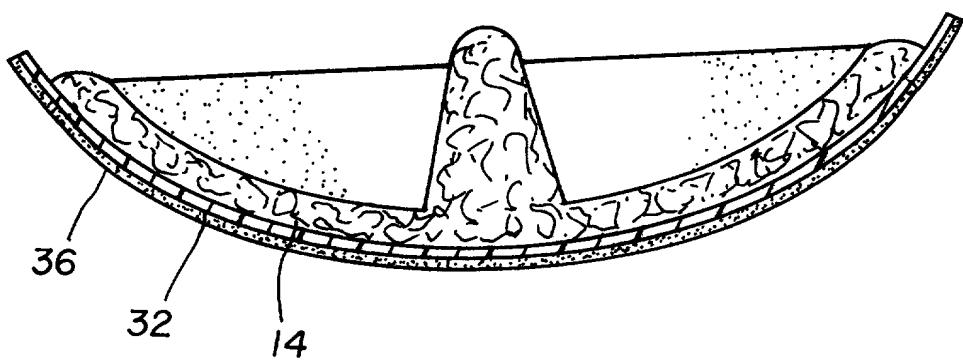
**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

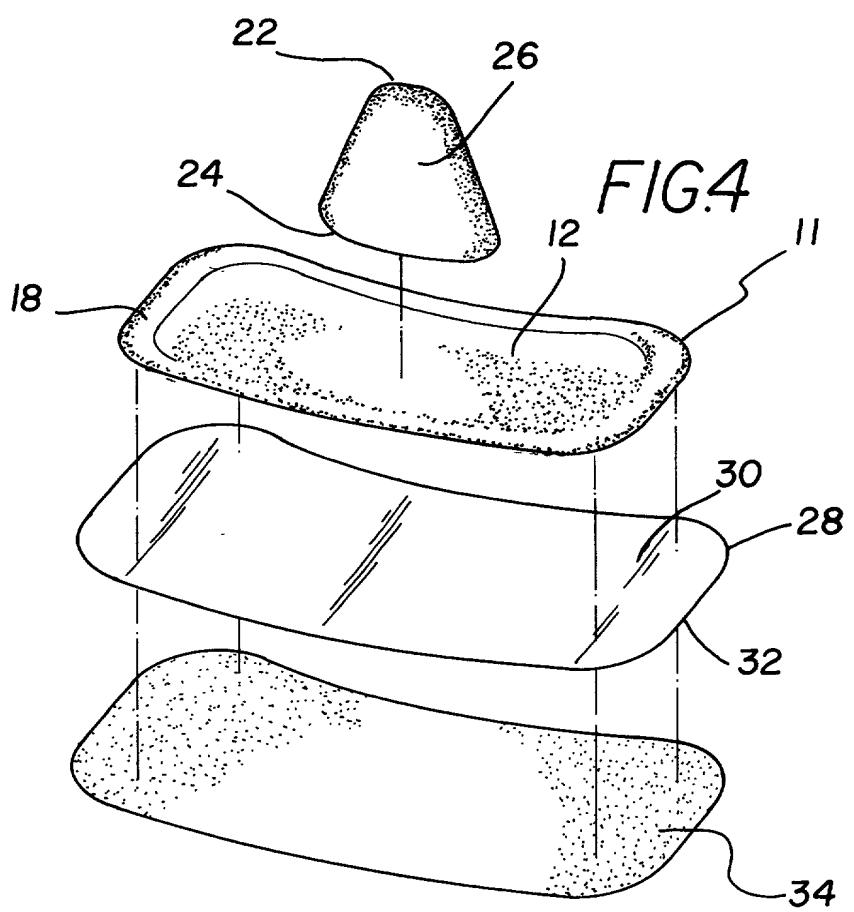
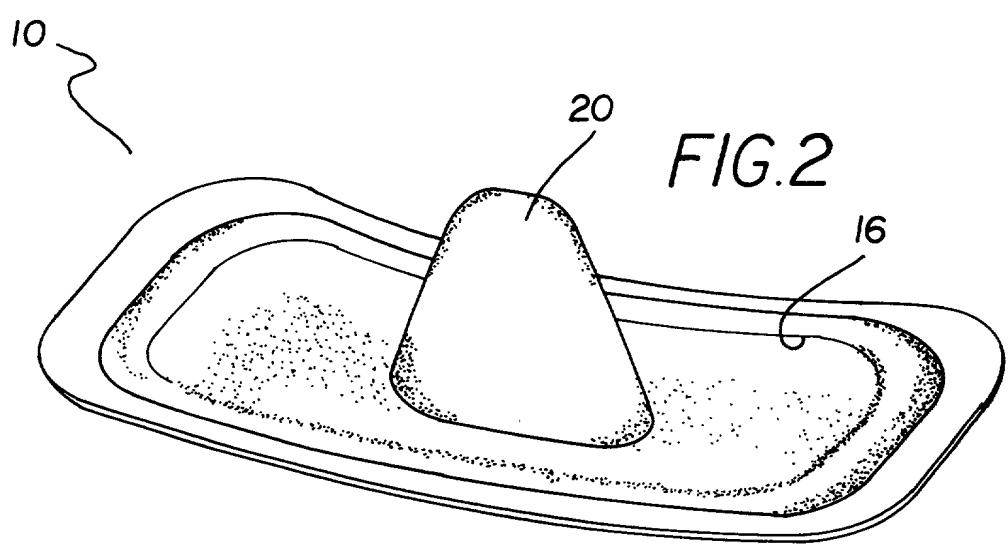
5        A feminine hygiene article for directing menstrual flow into a panel. The feminine hygiene article includes a base panel for absorbing moisture. The base panel has a top surface and a bottom surface. An upstanding member directs flow of the moisture. The upstanding member has a top side, a bottom side and a peripheral  
10      wall extending therebetween. The bottom side is fixedly coupled to the top surface of the base panel. A sealing member has a front side and a back side. The front side is fixedly coupled to the bottom surface of the base panel.

*FIG.1*



*FIG.3*





Attorney's Docket No. K&A 99-1107  
Client's Docket No. BLT677

## **DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

### **FEMININE HYGIENE ARTICLE**

the specification of which is attached hereto.

I further state that I do not know and do not believe that the above-named invention has ever been known or used in the United States before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of any inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on any application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than one (1) year prior to this application; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on the invention has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as identified below.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment if applicable.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

<u>NONE</u> (Number)	<u>                  </u> (Country)	<u>                  </u> (Day/Month/ Year Filed)	<u>                  </u> (Yes)	<u>                  </u> (No)
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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States Provisional application(s) listed below:

<u>NONE</u> (Application No.)	<u>                  </u> (Filing Date)
----------------------------------	--

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365 (c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

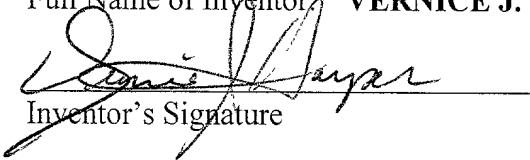
<u>NONE</u> (Application No.)	<u>                  </u> (Filing Date)	<u>                  </u> (Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
----------------------------------	--	---

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Ivar M. Kaardal, Registration Number 29,812.

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Full Name of Inventor: **VERNICE J. HARPER**

  
Inventor's Signature

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